

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic apparatus comprising:

~~an input~~ a first input means having first character-input keys assigned to a matrix configuration wherein said first character-input keys ~~having~~ have different vertical and horizontal widths; the longitudinal axes of said first character-input keys being tilted in a top view; said first character-input keys having first and second contacts to input different characters; said first and second contacts being provided on first and second ends of said first character-input keys in the longitudinal direction; said characters assigned to each of said ends of said first character-input keys being phonetic letters; said characters assigned to the center of said first character input keys being numerals;

a second input means having second character-input keys provided for entering alphabets expressing Japanese vowels, said second characters-input keys being arranged in a region different from a region where said first character-input keys are arranged, and

a display means for displaying the characters input by ~~said character-input keys~~ of said input means; said first input means and said second input means.

2. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first character-input keys are arranged in such a manner that the longitudinal axes of said character-input keys is tilted from northeast to southwest.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus as set forth in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 having a Latin letter--Japanese character conversion means for converting the words expressed by using phonetic letters, which are entered by said first character-input keys, keys and said second character-input keys, into Japanese words.

5. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1-4~~claim 1 wherein said electronic apparatus comprises third contacts that are capable of contacting said first contacts and said second contacts provided on said first and said second ends of said first character-input keys; and third characters different from those assigned to said first and second ends are assigned to the center of said first character-input keys wherein said first contacts and said second contacts touch said third contacts, thereby inputting said third characters assigned to the center of said first character-input keys.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1-6~~claim 1 wherein said electronic apparatus is of a hand-held type.